

NORTHFLEET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER, 1942.

BY

M.F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman:

Mr. James Haynes.

Mr. James Carlton.

Mr. George Gouge.

Mr. Stephen Lawrance.

Mr. T.S. White.

Mrs. G.S. Lane, J.P.,

Mrs. B.E. Barker



MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

All members of the Health Committee, together with the following  
who attended in a consultative capacity.

Mesdames. Carlton, Humphrey, Huntley,  
Westcott, Smith, Whitchello and White.

Clerk.

Mr. W.G. Fatcher.

Solicitor.

Mr. F.W. Jones.

Medical Officer of Health.

M.F. McDonnell, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O., D.P.H.

Maternity & Child Welfare Officer.

James Crawford, M.B., B.CH.

Sanitary Inspectors.

Sydney R. Daly, D.P.A., M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,  
Cert. Smoke Inspector, Sanitary Science Cert.  
R.S.I., Cert. Meat Inspector.

J.S. Cowpland, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector.

G.H. Suggitt, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A., Cert. Meat Inspector,  
Cert. A.R.P.S.

Health Visitor.

Miss M.E. Chick, S.R.N., S.C.M., A.R.San.I.

REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE  
YEAR, 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Northfleet Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report  
of the Public Health conditions of the district for the year ended  
December, 1942.

At the request of the Ministry of Health the contents of my report have been abbreviated and certain matters dealing with vital statistics are omitted.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Council for continued interest and support.

Your obedient Servant,

M.F. McDONNELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

Council Offices,  
Northfleet, Kent.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (as constituted at 30th June, 1935,) acres	3,770
(-393 Tidal Water)	
Population (Census 1931).	16,429
Number of inhabited houses (31st March, 1942)	5,055
" " new houses erected year ended 21st December, 1942.	Nil.
Number of families or separate occupiers (1931)	3,723
Rateable value 31st December, 1942.	£110,459
Sum represented by a penny rate (1942)	£448.2

GENERAL PROVISION AND HEALTH SERVICES.

Midwives.

This service is under the control of the County Council who have appointed the following as County Midwives:-

Mrs. L.R.E. Watson,	40, Dover Road, (Retired in Feb.)
Miss W.E. Whitaker	8, Park Avenue.
Mrs. F.E. Plumb,	8, Park Avenue.
Mrs. A.R. Brownridge	37, Cobham Street, Gravesend. (for Rosherville area)
Mrs. D.M. Kemp,	67, Broomfield Road, Swanscombe.

Other Midwife practising in the district:-

Mrs. F.E. Holloway,	43, Mitchell Avenue.
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MATERNITY & CHILD WELFARE.

The work at the Centre continues very usefully and efficiently. The average weekly attendance at the Centre has been 88.57. The total attendances of children during the year were 4,606. There were 212 new attendances. It is found that your mothers are becoming more aware of the benefits of attending such a Centre and are taking advantage of facilities offered.

The Centre is open on two days of the week, when the Medical Officer attends with the Health Visitor. The Health Visitor, who is a fully trained nurse and midwife, also attends the Ante Natal Clinic.

Infant Welfare Centres.

- (a) Number of Centres provided and maintained by the Council. 1
- (b) Number of Centres provided and maintained by Voluntary Associations. Nil.



- (c) Total number of attendances at all Centres during the year.
- |   |       |
|---|-------|
| (i) By children under 1 year of age                 | 2,804 |
| (ii) By children between the ages of 1 and 5 years. | 1,802 |
| Total   | 4,606 |

- (d) Total number of children who attended the Centres for the first time during the year, and who on the date of their first attendance were:-

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| (i) Under 1 year of age                | 190 |
| (ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years | 22  |

- (e) Total number of children who attended at the Centres during the year, and who, at the end of the year were:-

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (i) Under 1 year of age                 | 171 |
| (ii) Between the ages of 1 and 5 years. | 210 |

Ante Natal Clinics.

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| (a) Number of clinics provided and maintained by the Council.                        | 1    |
| (b) Number of clinics provided and maintained by Voluntary Associations.             | Nil. |
| (c) Total number of attendances by expectant mothers at all clinics during the year. | 87   |
| (d) Total number of expectant mothers who attended the clinics during the year.      | 51   |

Minor Ailments Clinic.

- |  |     |
|--|-----|
| Number of sessions during the year, 1942.        | 291 |
| Number of attendances by children under 5 years. | 934 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

<u>Scarlet Fever.</u>			<u>Diphtheria.</u>		
Cases notified.	18		Cases notified.		3
Cases removed to Hospital.	5		Cases removed to Hospital.		3
Percentage of cases removed.	27.7%		Percentage of cases removed.		100%

<u>Enteric Fever.</u>			<u>Tuberculosis.</u>		
Cases notified.	Nil.		Cases notified.		28
			Number of deaths.		13

.Statement of particulars appearing on the register of notifications of cases of Tuberculosis for the year ended 31st December, 1942.

	Pulmonary			Non Pulmonary			Pul. and Non-Pul. Totals.
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
(a) No. of cases of Tuberculosis on the register at the commencement of the year.	44	34	78	11	11	22	100
(b) No. of cases remaining on the register at the end of the year.	49	36	85	11	12	23	108

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Clinics are held daily at the Council Offices from 10 - 11 a.m. and twice weekly at the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic in the afternoons from 3 - 4.0.

Present Position.

	<u>Under 5 years.</u>	<u>Between 5 and 15 years.</u>
Percentage Immunised.	52.6	65.7
Total number of children immunised during the year.	326	1,000.

On the instructions of the Ministry of Health a special effort was begun in November to secure the Immunisation of all children from 1 to 5 years. Up to November 13th, the approximate number of children of this age treated was 550. By the end of December this number had been reduced to about 440. The co-operation of some parents is difficult to obtain and in some cases treatment is altogether refused.

Scabies.

During the year treatment for persons suffering from Scabies was provided at Brookvale Council Depot and 57 persons and contacts were treated there and 8 cases were treated at their homes where facilities were suitable.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Public Pathologist's Report on Water Samples.

Reports received on samples taken from various taps on the Gravesend and Milton Water Works Co. Supply.

Date of Samples. 1942.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at		Remarks.
	37°C	22°C	
28th January	0	0	Good water
	0	0	" "
18th February	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
1st April	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
27th May	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
29th July	0	0	" "
30th September	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
4th November	0	0	" "
	0	0	" "
2nd December	0	0	" "
30th December.	0	0	" "

Reports received on samples taken from Emergency Water Supply Tanks.

17th June	65	88	Satisfactory
2nd September	31	47	"
	4	10	Good water
2nd December	0	3	" "

One sample was taken of water supplied by the Mid Kent Water Co., and the following result was obtained.

Date of Sample, 1942.	No. of organisms per c.c. capable of growth on Agar at		Remarks.
	37 °C	22°C	
29th July	0	5	Good water.

#### MILK SUPPLY.

All milkshops, dairy, bakehouses, workshops and slaughterhouses are visited at least twice a year by the Sanitary Inspectors and myself. All the milk is produced in other districts.

18 Samples of milk were submitted for bacteriological examination, 9 of which were reported unsatisfactory. Visits were made to the dairies concerned and suggestions put forward for improving the quality of the milk.

24 samples of milk as supplied to schools were taken, two of these proved to be unsatisfactory, and investigations were made at the dairy concerned.

(Sewage Sample Results on Page 6.)

#### Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1938.

This Act is administered by the County Council, and I am indebted to Mr. W.A. Elkington, County Inspector, Dartford for the following particulars of samples taken in the district during the year.

Description of sample.	Samples taken.	Result.
New Milk	34	Genuine.
Gin	1	"
Camphorated Oil	1	"
Soup Powder	1	"
Boracic Ointment	2	"
Whisky	1	"
Oat Flakes	1	"
Pearl Barley	1	"
Pork Sausages	1	"
Paste - Fish	1	"
Tincture of Quinine	1	"
Coffee	1	"
Paprika	1	"
	<u>48</u>	



# SEWAGE.

Frequent samples of sewage effluent from the works are submitted to the County Analyst, and the following table shows the results expressed in parts per 100,000:--

No. of Sample.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Date of Sample.	28.1.42.	18.2.42.	18.3.42.	29.4.42.	27.5.42.	17.6.42.	29.7.42.	2.9.42.	30.9.42.	4.11.42.	2.12.42.	30.12.42.
Nature of Sample.	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent	Effluent
Total dissolved solids	65.00	102.00	47.50	65.00	74.00	95.50	90.00	98.00	83.50	92.00	76.00	113.50
Total suspended solids	1.50	2.25	1.25	3.25	3.0	4.5	1.00	1.00	1.00	2.00	6.00	0.75
Organic suspended solids	1.00	1.75	1.00	3.00	2.5	3.00	0.75	0.75	0.75	1.50	1.25	0.25
Chlorine	10.4	18.9	8.1	11.1	12.6	18.0	16.1	15.0	17.7	20.1	14.5	24.2
Free ammonia	2.19	2.72	0.38	1.00	1.36	3.74	2.04	1.02	1.36	2.79	2.38	1.90
Albuminoid ammonia	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.54	0.48	1.09	0.20	0.41	0.27	0.27	0.41	0.136
Oxygen absorbed (acid permanganate) $\frac{1}{2}$ hr.	0.484	1.001	0.22	0.518	0.621	1.97	0.537	0.510	0.540	0.432	0.404	0.490
Oxygen absorbed (acid permanganate) 4 hrs.	0.902	1.984	0.59	0.886	1.04	2.69	1.100	1.110	0.872	0.864	0.765	0.991
Nitrogen as nitrates	2.5	4.2	2.0	2.0	1.25	1.25	3.0	2.5	2.5	4.2	2.8	5.0
Nitrogen as nitrites	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Dissolved oxygen requirement in 5 days.	Exceeds 1.915	---	Exceeds 1.26	Exceeds 1.495	Exceeds 1.71	---	Exceeds 1.865	Exceeds 0.905	Exceeds 0.900	Exceeds 2.79	Exceeds 1.60	Exceeds 1.265

## REMARKS.

- Sample No.
1. The effluent is of good quality.
  2. The effluent is of good quality.
  3. The effluent is of good quality.
  4. The effluent was of satisfactory quality and fit for discharge.
  5. This effluent was of good quality.
  6. The effluent was of fair quality, and, in my opinion, suitable for discharge
  7. The effluent was of good quality and suitable, therefore, for discharge
  8. The effluent was of good quality.
  9. The effluent was of very satisfactory quality.
  10. The effluent was of good quality and fit for discharge.
  11. The effluent was of good quality.
  12. The effluent is of very good quality.

Report of Medical Officer of Maternity and Child Welfare  
Clinic and Ante Natal Clinic for the year 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Northfleet Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Barker and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to inform you that the Child Welfare clinic has had a very successful year's work.

During the period in review we were pleased to welcome 190 new babies - while our total attendances for the year were 4,606, an increase of 1,000 over 1941.

During the same period 51 expectant mothers came for examination - total attendances at the ante natal clinic being 102.

It is very gratifying to me to be able to record such attendances - and one can only conclude that the provisions you have made are appreciated by the population.

The health of the babies attending the child welfare clinic is excellent, - that after three years of war, one should be able to record such a fact is notable, and in no small measure reflects the utmost credit on the Government's policy for the feeding of the expectant and nursing mothers and young children.

I should like to take the opportunity of thanking your Health Visitor, Miss Chick, for her interest and kindly co-operation in our efforts to create a higher standard of infant welfare in this district.

Looking back over the last few years, I have no doubt that we are very definitely advancing towards our goal.

I have the honour to be,  
Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Barker and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

JAMES CRAWFORD, M.B.

Report of the Health Visitor for the year,  
1942.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Barker and Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure in presenting the report for 1942.

Infant Welfare.

During the year, 274 live births were registered and 8 stillbirths were recorded. Routine visits have been carried out as usual and additional visits where and when necessary. The advantages of regular visits to the ante natal and infant welfare centres have been explained.

Infant Welfare Centre.

Attendances at the Clinics have increased both with the "Under-ones" and with the toddlers. Various dried milks and other foods were sold at cost price. National Dried Milk was also distributed in co-operation with the Food Office. The National Vitamins Scheme was extended in December to include all children under five years and all expectant mothers. The response to these facilities was improving at the end of the year, and the attendances at the distributing centres at All Saints Church Hall, and at the War-Time Nursery were increasing.

The Ladies of the M. & C.W. Committee have been of great assistance at the infant welfare centre and thanks is due to them.



Ante Natal Clinic.

Attendances at this clinic have increased. The County and Private Midwives working in the district have been invited to attend and to bring their patients with them.

The Kent County Council Evacuation Scheme for Mothers continues to operate and some few cases have gone into the country for their confinement.

Supplementary Clothing Coupons have been distributed to 314 expectant mothers during the year.

Foster Children.

At the end of the year, 2 foster children were on the register. Both the children were well cared for and their home conditions were entirely satisfactory.

Visits.

Ante Natal (first visits)	72
" " (Sub visits)	136
First visits to babies	278
Re-visits under 1 year	1,083
" " 1 - 5 years.	2,221
Special visits (including deaths, stillbirths, C.L.P., Nursery, Rest Centres, Schools, etc.)	91
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	3,881.

I am, Your obedient Servant,

M.E. CHICK.

Annual report of the Chief Sanitary Inspector  
for year 1942.

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Northfleet Urban District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report for the year 1942.

Infection and Disinfection.

During the year 75 cases of infectious diseases were investigated ,  
viz.-

Scarlet Fever	18
Tuberculosis	28
Diphtheria	3
Other diseases	26
	<hr/>
	75

During the year 52 houses were disinfected and nine disinfectated.



FOOD INSPECTION.  
MEAT.

The Ministry of Food discontinued slaughtering in the district in February.

Details of meat which upon inspection was found to be unfit for human consumption.

Disease.	<u>CATTLE</u> .							<u>SHEEP</u> .			<u>PIGS</u> .		Weight in lbs.
	Carcases.	Heads.	Hearts.	Lungs.	Liver.	Offals.	Joints.	Carcases.	Offals.	Joints.	Heads.	Offals.	
Tuberculosis	3	13	3	14	5	12	15				1½		2,392
Abscesses					3								36
Cirrhosis					2		1						25
Bruising							1						103
Congestion								1		1		1	20
Mastitis							1						11
Dropsical Emaciation								1					40

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED.

<u>Articles condemned.</u>	<u>Reason for condemnation.</u>	<u>Amount.</u>
Pork sausage meat.	Mould	70 lbs.
Oranges	"	123 "
Bacon	"	38 "
Cheese	"	23½ "
Sausages	Decomposed	9 "
Tinned milk	Blown	112 Tins
Prepared Foods	Decomposed	66 "
Tinned fish	Blown	8 "
Tinned fruit	"	1 "
Tinned Tomatoes	"	8 "
Eggs	Mould	25 dozen

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.

There are 25 persons and premises registered for the carrying on on such businesses, viz:-

Dairymen	15
Milkshops (bottled milk only)	7
Sterilised milk ( wholesale)	3

Designated Milk.

Three dairymen are licensed to sell "Tuberculin" tested milk and three "Pasteurised" milk.

Bakehouses.

Thirty four visits were made to the six bakehouses on the register, limewashing is carried out regularly and I am pleased to report that the general cleanliness is good.

Other Inspections.

Rats and mice Destruction Act, 1919.	38 visits.
Stables	7 inspections.
Shops Act.	61 "
Drain testing	39 tests,
	97 other inspections
Public Health Act, 1936.	152 Preliminary Notices served.
	125 " " complied.
	33 Statutory Notices served
	27 " " complied.
Housing Act, 1936.	75 visits
	10 houses rendered fit.

Factories Act. Five Preliminary Notices were served, four complied with. Because of unsuitable sewer levels one notice cannot be complied without extensive and costly works.

A total of 3,919 visits and inspections were made, including 250 for A.R.P. purposes.

Refuse Collection.

The weekly collection of refuse has been maintained throughout the district with the exception of the Rural Area where the period of collection is fortnightly. The number of bins emptied was 182,111 and the weight of refuse collected 4,228. tons.

Street cleansing.

This service was maintained in its full capacity throughout the year.

Gully and cesspool emptying.

During the year all gullies in the district were kept clear at a cost of £72. 0. 0. which is £5. 7. 11. in excess of the previous year. The cost of emptying cesspools in the district being £109. 0. 0. as compared with £101. 0. 0. the previous year.

I am, Your obedient servant,

J.S. COWPLAND.  
Chief Sanitary Inspector.  
Cleansing Superintendent.